implemented till 31st March 1996 and extension is under consideration.

(c) For the Eighth Five Year Plan it had been targeted to cover 6.60 lakh marine fishermen under the Saving-cum-Relief component of the National Welfare of Fishermen scheme. Against this target 8.71 lakh marine fishermen were likely to be covered upto 1995-96.

(d) The scheme was being implemented in only 7 maritime State/Union Territories upto 1995-96.

[Translation]

English Language in the Official Work

741. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India is going to celebrate Golden Jubilee of its independence whereas the country is still facing dependence of English language in the official work;

(b) whether official language is not being used in official work for a long time and even the Supreme Court has adopted English as its legal language and the Public Service Commission has made English language as essential one;

(c) whether it is an insult of not only official language Hindi but also all Indian languages;

(d) whether it is not known that the official language of the country is Hindi or English and as per the constitution of India, English is the secondary language but in fact Hindi has become the language of translation; and

(e) whether there is any other independent country on the earth where a foreign language is being used even after fifty years of independence and where a dozen national and five international languages are being used simultaneously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes. Sir. Celebration of Golden Jubilee of independence is a matter of pride for any countrymen. It would not be proper to link this issue with that of the Official Language.

(b) No doubt. English has even upto today maintained its dominance in official functioning, however, use of Hindi in official work is increasing gradually with incessant efforts of the Government. There are some long term recommendations on introducing use of Hindi in the Supreme Court in the fifth volume of the Report submitted by the Parliamentary Committee on Official Language; action is being taken to get the Presidential Orders passed on these recommendations. English is not compulsory in most of the Examinations conducted by UPSC.

(c) if so, [illegible] dependence and (d). Hindi is the Official Language of the India according to the constitution of India. Govt. of India is conscious about the progress of Official Language Hindi and is making efforts for the progressive use of Hindi in Official work. It is a sort of compulsion to resort to translation during the transitional period.

(e) Circumstances of different countries are not the same with regard to language and therefore, comparison of one country with another can not be said to be significant.

[English]

Agricultural Production Growth Rate

742. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the present growth rate of agricultural production as compared to the previous two years;

(b) whether there has been significant fall in the production growth rate in the post green revolution period and since the period from which the support price schemes for agriculture have been active;

(c) if so, whether it has also been noticed that while productivity growth rate has improved, the production growth rate has declined;

(d) if so, the reasons for such decline in production growth rate;

(e) whether price policy has not been accompanied by adequate policy aimed at education and training of the farmers in the use of modern technologies which has been responsible for insufficient use of inputs;

(f) whether agriculture extension services are also inadequate; and

(g) if so, the measures being undertaken to improve the agricultural growth rate?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) The change over the previous year in Agricultural production index during 1995-96 was -.08 percent in comparision to +0.5 percent and +3.5 percent in 1994-95 and 1993-94 respectively.

(b) to (d). The annual growth rate during the post-green resolution period (1967-68 to 1994-95), which almost coincides with the post-price support period, has been of the order of 2.87 per cent. The annual growth rate in productivity during this period has been 2.02 per cent. The low growth in 1995-96 is owing to abnormal weather conditions and low and imbalanced use of fertilizers.

(e) to (g). In order to make agriculture price policy effective, price support has been accompanied by various other measures including adequate supply of various yield increasing inputs and effective extension services to educate the farmers for adoption of modern technology. The extension services have been extended

over years in most of the States. Various crop production oriented programmes are being implemented to improve the agricultural productivity and growth rate of production in this sector.

Ozone Busting Chemicals

743. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of projects alongwith their estimated cost approved by the Government to switch over from the ozone busting chemicals under Multilateral Fund created, under Montreal Protocol, during the last three years, Statewise;

(b) the actual progress of the ongoing projects against the targets set;

(c) the details of the proposals pending clearance, and the steps taken/proposed to be taken to expedite clearance and release of fund for each State;

(d) whether the Government have taken initiative to bring in a suitable legislation to ban the establishment of any new CFC producing and ODS using units; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) to (c). Multilateral Fund created under Montreal Protocol approves funds on project basis. The funding being provided by the Multilateral Fund is project specific and is disbursed directly to the concerned industry for execution of the project. The assistance being provided is not routed through Govt. of India. Govt. of India scrutinises the project and recommends the eligible projects to the Multilateral Fund for final approval. One hundred and six projects for India were approved at a cost of US$ 29.75 million to phaseout Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) for various industries under Foam, Refrigeration, Aerosol, Halons and Solvents sectors during last 3 years and 13 projects which have been recommended for funding are pending with Multilateral Fund for final approval.

Initially progress of implementation of projects was slow due to compliance of certain formalities between implementing agencies, industry and Govt. However, there has been a significant improvement.

(d) and (e). Separate rules under Environment Protection Act are under preparation.

Dairy Processing Technologies

744. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state :

(a) the details of animal production and dairy processing technologies developed at NDRI during the last three years; and

(b) the number of these adopted by the farmers and entrepreneurs and the achievements made there under?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[Translation]

Price of Fertilizer

745. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the farmers of West Uttar Pradesh have been heavily affected by the rise in the prices of fertilizers;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon;

(c) whether the relief is proposed to be given to the farmers to save them from this crisis that emerged out of sudden increase in the prices of phosphatic fertilizers by the Government; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (d). Immediately after the decontrolling of phosphatic and potassic fertilizers in August 1992, a concession of Rs. 1000 was introduced per tonne of DAP and MOP; Rs. 340 per tonne of SSP and Rs. 435-999 for various grades of complexes to cushion the impact of rise in prices. Realising that this concession has not sufficient, Government on 6.7.96 effected increase in concession from Rs. 1000 to Rs. 3000 per tonne of indigenous DAP; a concession of Rs. 1500 per tonne of imported DAP was also extended to which concession was withdrawn during 1993-94; from Rs. 1000 to Rs. 1500 per tonne of MOP, from a range of Rs. 435-999 to a range of Rs. 1304-2633 for various grades of complexes and from Rs. 340 to Rs. 500 per tonne of SSP.

[English]

National Policy for Mentally Retarded Persons

746. SHRI PINAKI MISHRA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any national policy has been evolved for the rehabilitation of the mentally retarded persons; and

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the National Finance and Development Corpn. has been established for the parents of the mentally handicapped persons; and

(d) if so, the salient features thereof?